Montana Grants and Loans

Application

Application Details Print to PDF | Go to Application Forms

101079 - AGR Noxious Weed Trust Fund 2021 Local Cooperative-Continuing - Final Application

103683 - 2021 Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project
AGR Noxious Weed Trust Fund

Status: Editing **Submitted Date:** **Submitted By:**

Applicant Information

Primary Contact:

Name:* Mr. (Salutation) Joe (First Name) (Middle Name) Lockwood (Last Name)
Title:
Email:* glockwood@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
Alternate Email huskerlockwood@yahoo.com
Address:* 3319 King Avenue East

* Billings (City) Montana (State/Province) 59101 (Postal Code/Zip)
Phone:* 406-256-2708 (Phone ###-###-####) Ext.
Alternate Phone 406-672-1084
Fax:

Organization Information

Name:* Yellowstone County Weed District
Organization Type: County Government
Organization Website:
Address:* 3319 King Avenue East

* Billings (City) Montana (State/Province) 59101 (Postal Code/Zip)
Phone:* 406-256-2731
Ext.
Alternate Phone
Fax:
Email address
Alternate Email
Vendor ID

Project Information

Enter the name of the person that will be giving the 15 minute presentation at the grant hearings.

Presenter for the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Hearings:* Joe Lockwood

Brief Project Description:* The 2021 Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project will be a continuation of the 2021 Salt Cedar Project which will entail the control of massive and densely populated infestations of tamarisk along the Yellowstone River Riparian Area corridor. The 2021 project will begin at Road 21 North in the Huntley Project Area.

350 characters max.

Will there be an addition of new herbicides or acreages outside the original project area?

New Project Acres & Herbicides* No

*If you answered **"yes"**, please complete an Environmental Assessment Amendment (contact MDA 444-7882 for more information).*

Total Acres in the project:* 803.0

Applying For:

Special General Funding:* No

If Yes, then describe how the project meets the funding requirements:

Go to "Help" for more information on the funding requirements.

Applying For:

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Funding* No

If Yes, then describe how the project meets the funding requirements

Go to "Help" for more information on the funding requirements.

Applying For:

Greater Sage Grouse Funding* No

If Yes, then describe how the project meets the funding requirements:

Go to "Help" for more information on the funding requirements.

*Click on Help for information on how to use the **http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer** website to find the center Latitude and Longitude of your project.*

Center location of the project in Decimal Degrees, WGS84 or NAD83:* 45.9961 (Latitude (##.####)) -108.0747 (Longitude (-###.####))

Total Grant Funds: $50,000.00

Total Matching Funds: $50,000.00

Total Project Funds: $100,000.00

Previous Funding

MDA Grant Number	Amount Received	Amount Remaining
2007-060G	$10,500.00	$150.00
2008-719T	$37,272.00	$0.00
2009-041	$25,000.00	$0.00
2010-068	$35,000.00	$0.00
2012-015	$25,000.00	$0.00
2013-026	$38,727.00	$0.00
2014-021	$40,483.00	$0.00
2015-066R	$40,000.00	$0.00
2016-052	$40,328.00	$40.00
2017-049	$43,000.00	$0.00
2018-047	$45,100.00	$0.00
2019-801X	$50,000.00	$0.00
2020-040	$30,000.00	$0.00
	$460,410.00	**$190.00**

Previous Grant Information

Total Acres Treated:* 4636

Total Acres of Targeted Grazing:* 0

Total Number of Biocontrol Release Sites:* 2

Total Acres Revegetated:* 0

Total Project Acres Surveyed:* 9893

Project Achievements and Challenges:*

The 2020 Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project started on September 8, 2020 due to hot temperatures earlier in the month. Mason Industries started the project by surveying last years treated areas on the western end of the project and spraying any Salt Cedar trees that were missed or new trees that established due to seed sources that were missed in prior years. There were many areas on the western end of the project that date back to 2007 that were treated for new trees or some small infestations that were completely missed back then. Back in the early days of the project we did not have the means of accessing all areas due to the use of a drift boat to get from point a to point b. Mason Industries supplied 1 applicators, 1 atv, 1 utv, and 1 pontoon boat. During the 2020 Salt Cedar Project approximately 819,287 Salt Cedar trees were sprayed within the project area. We treated approximately 260 acres out of 2,443 acres surveyed for salt cedar trees.

One of the biggest challanges this year was being able to manage time and herbicide for the old project areas and current project area. In the end it turned out perfectly. We did have some winter weather set in for two weeks so that shut us down for a bit but it all worked out after the weather improved although with the winter weather it initiated needle drop so the trees do become a bit more difficult to identify. I will continue to preach that without this project and the funding that we recieve through the trust fund grant we would be looking at some very detrimental affects from not controlling salt cedar along the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone County.

If you have multiple photos, attach a Word document with the photos and short descriptions of the photos.

Upload before photo(s):* BEFORE PHOTOS.docx
Click on the above icon to attach a file.

Upload after photo(s):* AFTER PHOTOS.docx
Click on the above icon to attach a file.

Project Overview - Local Coop

Need for Action:*

Explain why the project area needs assistance from the Trust Fund for noxious weed control.

The purpose of this project is to continue an aggressive effort to eradicate the Salt cedar from the main channel of the Yellowstone River corridor, directly downstream from the 2007 - 2020 treatment locations. Salt cedar, which is a category 2 state listed noxious weed, is a priority concern within Montana and regionally; and scientifically the effort should be initiated at the upper ends of the affected watershed. Yellowstone County Weed District estimates that there are approximately 18,000 plus acres of Salt Cedar trees in the Yellowstone River corridor in Yellowstone County alone. The density of salt cedar that we are encountering is exploding at an exponential rate. The islands that we are monitoring and treating are smaller than the island acreage that we monitored and treated during the early years of the project. The current treatment areas are densely populated with a lot of reseeding occurring within a few feet to several yards around current infestations. With these areas developing at the rate that they are I can only imagine that we are going to be dealing with a beast down river from where we are currently working. At the prescribed rate and one hour of man/machine power, only 1/2 to 3/4 of an acre can be treated. YCWD cannot provide all that is required for this daunting task without additional assistance from other sources.

3000 character max.

Attach a project map with boundaries using google maps, the Montana Natural Heritage Program Map Viewer, or any other mapping resource. ***Before you can add your map(s), you must complete all components of the Project Overview and click save.***

Project Map (w/ boundaries)* 2021 Salt Cedar Project Map.pdf
Click here to add attachment.

High Priority Noxious Weeds:*

List the noxious weeds that are a high priority in the project and why management of these weeds is a priority for the county and your CWMA.

Salt cedar trees have formed areas so thick that access is nearly impossible. These monocultures are not friendly, alter water sources and represent a major seed source. Recreation and wildlife activity reduces to a minimum in areas that have seen no treatment. Each year as growth continues, fire hazards increase exponentially endangering native habitats. If this is left unchecked most floodplain areas will be clogged with Salt cedar trees thus not allowing floodwaters to spread out during the peak runoff period during the months of June and early July. This will increase flooding in other areas that have never experienced flooding, increase channel depth and erosion, and possibly alter river channel activity. As growth continues, areas where salt cedar trees can establish continues to increase due to the ever changing geomorphology of the river. Many stream beds have dried up and sources of salt cedar and poor vegetation growth are appearing in larger areas. Eliminating this plant will allow for more willows, cottonwoods and aspen growth, It will increase the ability for water usage for agricultural producers, recreation usage; improve desirable plant communities and wildlife will prosper.

2000 character max.

Cooperators

Cooperator Type	Cooperator's Name	Cooperator Commitment
BLM	David Lefevre	Support
BOR	Jeff Baumberger	Support
DNRC	Zach Huyser	Support
FWP	Ryan Taynton	Support
Other	Yellowstone Conservation District - LaVerne Ivie	Support

Participation

Please indicate the percentage of landowners within the project boundary that are actively participating in this project (both receiving funding and not).

Landowner Participation * 0%

Description of Participation*

Give a brief explanation of the percentage of participation (i.e. 60%= 6 of 10 landowners own the majority of land in the project area, or 100%= every landowner in the project area has committed funds or will do weed control on their own).

The following agencies have given their full support to the 2021 Yellowstone River Saltcedar Project; Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Natural Resouces and Conservation, and the Yellowstone Conservation District. Without their full support, financially and on the ground this project would not be conceivable. By having the support of these agencies we are able to tackle a difficult and expensive project head on. We are very thankful for their full support of the 2018 Yellowstone River Saltcedar Project.

2,000 character max.

*Attach the project's signed cooperator interest form for all participating landowners. Please try to group letters into batches of 10 or more per file. If the file is too large or there are multiple files attach them in "Other Attachments". Here is a template of a **Grant Cooperator Interest Form**.*

Signed cooperator interest form:* **Letters of Support.pdf**
Click on the above icon to attach a file.

CWMA Background and Goals

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Background*

Describe the CWMA: how was it developed, how is the group organized, how are participants receiving information and education, what type of outreach was/or is being done, and which, if any, alternative funding sources were identified?

Grant monies and partnerships with other agencies, have given YCWD measurable progress over the years; since the 2007 launch of the Yellowstone River Salt cedar Project. Each year more trees and seedlings are treated. During the 2013 project 7 miles of river were covered and 325 acres treated and over 56,000 trees treated. The 2018 project covered 1189 acres with 846 acres treated with approximately 900,000 trees treated. The 2019 project covered 450 acres with 283 acres treated and approximately 1.3 million trees treated. The 2020 project covered 2443 acres with 260 acres of that treated for salt cedar infestations. The 2020 project started out where the initial 2007 project started and we were able to find new infestations and some areas that were missed throughout the years. With each year, since the launch of this project in 2007, YCWD has learned better methods of application. However, with each year, YCWD encounters new challenges Changing river channels, water levels, tree density, weather conditions and availability of funding for herbicide and man-power have tested the capabilities of the Yellowstone County Weed District. There has been many acres of the river corridor treated, but there are many more ahead of us. The prosperity and density of Salt cedar farther down the river, is increasing tremendously.

2000 character max.

CWMA Goals*

Describe the CWMA goals, both short- and long-term, for the entire length of the project: Short-term (1-3yrs), Long-term (4-10yrs). Goals should explain how the project will create future healthy plant communities in the project area, and how the CWMA will become independent from grant funds in the future.

The Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project has 4 main objectives; 1. **Protect Agriculture** - What is the number one important factor in agriculture? Water!!! Salt Cedar is called the Thirsty Tree, 1 solid acre of Salt Cedar can use up to 7.7 acre feet of water which is equivalent to 2.8 million gallons of water.Salt cedar can also take over valuable grazing lands thus reducing the economic profits for farmers and ranchers. With agriculture being the number one driver of the Montana Economy I feel its important to reduce this threat along the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone County. 2. **Prevent Flooding along the Yellowstone River** - Salt Cedar trees are a main threat to the old oxbow floodplain areas along the Yellowstone River and if left unchecked these areas are going to become so infested with overgrowth of Salt Cedar infestations. These old oxbow areas act as relief valves during the high-water season thus reducing the chance of flooding elsewhere. The number of Salt Cedar trees that we are finding in these areas is incredibly astronomic and require a large amount of herbicide and man hours to control. 3. **Reduce the threat to**

native habitat and native species - Salt Cedar infestations that become dense and saturated cause vegetation loss of your more desireable plant species and degradation of native habitats that are critical in maintaining a healthy functioning ecosystem. 4. **Reduce the potential for fire** - monocultures of salt cedar create dense brush like growth with lots of ground duff which is very flammable. Fires that occur in areas that are dense with salt cedar burn with the same types of fire behavior which is very characteristic of large forest fires.

2000 character max.

Integrated Weed Management Tools

Row	Planned?	Describe Use
Prevention (washing equipment, using weed seed free products, limiting disturbance, etc.):	No	
Biocontrol Control (classic use of biocontrol agents):	No	Since the beginning of the Salt Cedar Project on the Yellowstone River in 2007 there has been some releases of Diorhabda elongata along the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone County. The first releases did not establish and the latest release which was made near Custer which is on the eastern side of Yellowstone County has yet to be determined how well they have established in that location.
Cultural Control (targeted grazing, tilling, hand pulling, burning, fertilization, revegetation, etc.):	No	
Chemical Control (list anything not in herbicide worksheet):	No	
Other (other methods being used):	No	

Additional IWM Information

Additional IWM Information

If necessary, please describe any additional integrated weed management techniques being used, or expand on the selections in the table above.

The Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project has been ogoing since 2007 with a high success rate. To date 52.37 miles of river have been scouted, mapped, and treated. The Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project will continue to be divided into workable sections. By dividing the river into workable sections allows us to be very thorough in scouting and treating areas of salt cedar infestations. The 2021 project will begin around Road 21 North in the Huntley Project Area and will travel upriver to around Road 16 North to finish up some islands that have not been treated due to access issues because of low water levels and not being able to get a boat into those areas. These islands will be sprayed earlier in the summer in 2021 when water levels are higher and we may also airlift in some totes so labor hours can be utilized efficiently. After these areas upriver are finished we will then continue from Road 21 North downriver as far as we can go until we utilize all the herbicide that was purchased for the project. Certain areas of the islands are extremely dense with trees, and numerous man-hours and a large quantitiy of herbicide will be required.; thus slowing down forward progress. The mature trees will be treated using the basal bark I.P.T. (individual plant treatment) method with Remedy Ultra/Impel via 4-wheelers, a jet boat for island access and backpack sprayers. The treatment methods success vary with timely applications, water levels, weather conditions and availability of man, machine and herbicide.

I have included a document which shows the tree counts dating back to 2007 when the Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project was started at the Stillwater/Yellowstone County lines. The tree counts are approximately the number of trees that were treated each year of the project.

2,000 character max.

Monitoring Plan

Annual Monitoring Plan:*

Describe your monitoring plan for tracking the activities of this project, both for the grant year and into the future. Explain how the plan will determine the effectiveness of the project's noxious weed treatments. At a minimum, local cooperative projects must have a before and after photo to submit in the final report.

The following methods/activities will be used to evaluate the success of the project: 1) during the herbicide application process digital photos will be taken to establish plant growth and vigor; along with GPS point data collection to identify all treatment locations for future site inspection and analysis. The Yellowstone County Weed District will monitor the project area and complete any future spot treatments of Saltcedar plants the show any visible signs of re-growth, and look for any new infestation locations that may emerge due to changes in the river geomorphology.

Previous project areas are revisited yearly and are accessed by pontoon boat or UTV/ATV. It is of the utmost importance in this project to revisit these areas to check for regrowth or trees that were completely missed. During the 2020 cleanup campaign this year we revisited old grant project area dating back to 2007 when the first initial salt cedar grant project started. We found several areas of new infestations and a couple of old areas that were missed. We did find new infestations west of the Yellowstone County Line into Stillwater County.

2000 character max.

Mapping Methods:*

The Department of Agriculture utilizes the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System West (EDDMapS West) to foster public noxious weed data sharing in all areas of the state. EDDMapS West is a web-based data management system for reporting, storing, mapping, and retrieving invasive species data in the Western US. Data sharing helps to monitor noxious weed movement and create sound management strategies. Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant participants are required to share mapping data from each project with EDDMapS West. For information on sharing data click the link: ***https://www.eddmaps.org/tools/.***

Describe the methods used to map noxious weed infestations in the project area.

During the salt cedar project all trees or areas that are treated are mapped during the treatment process. Mason Industries utilizes GPS DATA LOGGERS purchased from Red's Fixit and the mapping data is processed using Alltopo. Their equipment is setup to map individual points even when handline work is being done. Yellowstone County Weed District uses the Outback Data Logging System and works jointly with their county GIS department to process data. The county equipment is not setup to map individual spray points when handline work is being done.

2000 character max.

Attach a map showing weed infestations in the project area. File types can be JPG, PDF, or multiple project maps in a Word document.

Upload a weed map for the project area:* **2021 Salt Cedar Project Map.pdf**
Click on the above icon to attach a file.

Management Plans

Weed Management Plans

Click here to add attachment.

Project Objectives

Time Period	Year	Activity Description
January, February, March, April, October, November, December	2021	YCWD Local Public School Education Program - YCWD Education Coordinator producing virtual education videos;weed ecology, weed I.D., noxious weed management, natural resource management and how weeds affect the environment around us. These videos will viewed in the public schools throughout Yellowstone County.
February	2021	MATE SHOW - Southcentral Area Weed Education Trailer will be on display at the MATE show along with county weed coordinators and other weed specialist to help answer questions on noxious and nuisance weed management.
May	2021	Billings Arbor Day& Laurel Arbor Day - noxious weed education and ecology education with the Southcentral Area Weed Education Trailer on display - local 4th and 5th grade students attend arbor to learn about everything from natural resources to noxious weeds.
May	2021	Hire contractor for 2020 Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project
July	2021	Scout new salt cedar project area later in July after water levels have dropped on the Yellowstone River. Will also take a look at previous year's project area to determine herbicide effectiveness. Possibly start some early work on the project and treat some islands before the water level drops too much and makes access more difficult by boat.
September	2021	Begin 2021 Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project and also work on photo points from last project area and tie them into new project area to illustrate project success
October	2021	Finish Salt Cedar Project and begin finalizing 2021 grant project and claims.

Education Events

Event Type	Planned?	Describe Event
Landowner meeting(s):	No	
Weed tours/floats:	No	
Spray days:	No	
News articles/Public information:	Yes	Possible GoPro video of the 2021 Salt Cedar Project - possibly post on Yellowstone County Weed District Web Site and possibly MWCA if permitted.
K-12 Students - weed education:	Yes	Yellowstone County Weed District Education Specialist producing virtual education videos on invasive species that can be viewed in the local public schools in Yellowstone County.
Conference/meeting presentations:	Yes	Yellowstone County Salt Cedar Project Success Story Presentation at 2018 MWCA CONFERENCE Grant Presentation at NWTF and DNRC Grant Hearings
Other education events:	Yes	NILE Education - October 2021, Arbor Day - May 2021, MATE Show - February 2021 with the south central area weed education trailer.

Single Herbicide - Private Applicator

Herbicide Tank Mix - Private Applicator

Single Herbicide - Commercial Applicator

Single Herbicide - Commercial Applicator 1	
Active Ingredients*	Triclopyr Ester
Application Rate*	460.0
Herbicide Cost*	$144.00
Does your Herbicide cost differ from MT State price list?*	Yes
If Yes, explain cost difference	YCWD purchases herbicide below state bid prices
Herbicide Additive	Basal Bark Oil, Dye
Additive Cost	$72.33
Does your Additive cost differ from MT State price list?*	Yes
If Yes, explain cost difference	YCWD purchase cost on Loveland Bark Oil with Blue Dye is higher than state bid price
Application Type*	Ground
Application Cost*	$85.00
Weeds Treated*	Tamarisk (Saltcedar)
Acres Treated*	331.86
Total Amount	$99,999.37
50% Cost Share	$50,000.00

Herbicide Tank Mix - Commercial Applicator

Totals

If you have selected "Other-County Listed" as a weed to be treated in any of the sections above, click "Edit" (at top) and enter the name(s) of the County Listed weed(s) you are planning to treat. If more than one weed name is entered, separate each weed name with a comma.

Other-County Listed Weeds:

Total Acres Treated: 331.86

Total 50% Share: $50,000.00 (Contracted Services) $0.00 (Private Applicator)

Revegetation - Private Applicator

Seed Mixture Description	Pounds per Acre	Seed Cost per Acre	Application Type	Acres Reseeded	Total Amount	50% Cost Share
				0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Revegetation - Commercial Applicator

Seed Mixture Description	Pounds per Acre	Seed Cost per Acre	Application Type	Application Cost per Acre	Acres Reseeded	Total Amount	50% Cost Share
					0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Total Acres

Total Acres Reseeded: 0

Total 50% Share: $0.00

Contracted Services

$0.00
Private Applicator

Budget

Expense Category	Grant Funds	Grant Funds Narrative	Match Funds	Match Funds Narrative
Contracted Services - non-Herbicide	$0.00		$0.00	
Supplies & Materials - non-Herbicide	$0.00		$0.00	
Communications	$0.00		$0.00	
Travel	$0.00		$0.00	
Other Expenses	$0.00		$0.00	
Totals	**$0.00**		**$0.00**	

Herbicide - Private Applicator

Expense Category	Grant Funds	Match Funds
Supplies & Materials - Herbicide	$0.00	$0.00

Herbicide - Commercial Applicator

Expense Category	Grant Funds	Match Funds
Contracted Services - Herbicide	$50,000.00	$50,000.00

Revegetation - Private & Commercial Applicator

Expense Category	Grant Funds	Match Funds
Revegetation	$0.00	$0.00

Total Budget

Totals	Total Grant Funds	Total Match Funds
Total Budget	$50,000.00	$50,000.00

Additional Match Information

If your Herbicide or Revegetation match is actually less than the 50% shown, explain why in the box below.
If your Herbicide or Revegetation match exceeds the 50% shown, add the additional match amount to the Other Expenses Match Funds and Match Funds Narrative in the budget section above.

Herbicide/Reveg Match Information: YCWD will provide approximately $79,500.00 for herbicide mix; $55,000.00 from local weed district budget and $24,500.00 in match from DNRC 223 Grant. $20,000.00 from the NWTF Grant will be used on top of the $79,500.00 for herbicide mix purchase. Contractor labor will paid $44,000.00 with $30,000.00 coming from the NWTF GRANT and $14,000.00 coming from YCWD local contracted services budget.

Provide a narrative describing planned additional and/or in-kind contributions for the project. Go to "Help" (at top) for more information.

Additional and/or In-Kind Contributions: Yellowstone County Weed District will contribute office personnel, office equipment, supplies, and an applicator and machine if needed as an in-kind contribution to the project.

Other Attachments

File Name	Description	File Size

projectareas.pdf (1.7 MB)	Salt Cedar Grant Project Area Map dating back to 2007	1.7 MB
SALT CEDAR PROJECT TREE COUNTS.docx (56 KB)	Updated Salt Cedar Tree Counts from previous grant projects	56 KB

Region 5 Headquarters
2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59015

November 23, 2020

Yellowstone County Weed District
3319 King Ave East
Billings, MT 59101

To whom it may concern,

We here at Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks are fully in support of the Yellowstone County Salt Cedar Project for the 2021 season. The Yellowstone County Weed district have been great partners in weed management for the 11 Fishing Access Sites that FWP manages in the County. They have made great strides toward the eradication of salt cedar along the Yellowstone River drainage. As landowners and managers of public property, we appreciate the work that has been done and also what will be done in the future.

Sincerely,

Ryan Taynton
Fishing Access Site Program Manager
MT FWP Region 5
406-247-2964
rtaynton@mt.gov

YELLOWSTONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1371 RIMTOP DRIVE, BILLINGS, MT 59105 PHONE: 406.247.4420; FAX: 406.247.4416

To Whom It May Concern:

The Yellowstone Conservation District fully supports funding of the 2021 Yellowstone County Salt Cedar Management grant submitted to the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program.

The specific objective of this project to attempt to eradicate the Saltcedar infestations that have been identified through previous aerial and ground-based inventory efforts and is identified as an action item in Yellowstone Conservation District's FY21 Annual Plan of Operations.

This project is a continuation of several years of spraying Salt Cedar on the Yellowstone River which the Yellowstone CD has partnered with the Yellowstone County Weed Board. We are seeing tremendous success since this program was implemented several years ago.

To augment funding of the 2021 project, the Yellowstone Conservation District plans to apply for a $25,000 DNRC 223 grant. Last year, the 223 Committee was very receptive to Mr. Lockwood and Yellowstone Conservation District board member's presentation. We were very fortunate to receive the full $25,000 requested because funds were tight and funding for most projects was either decreased or not funded at all.

The Yellowstone Conservation District hopes that the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund considers funding this very worthwhile project another year.

Cordially,

Chad Sedgwick
Yellowstone Conservation District Board of Supervisors

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Billings Field Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, Montana 59101
http://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas

November 17, 2020

In Reply Refer To:
9015 (MT010.LP)

Greta Dige
Grant Coordinator
Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund
302 N. Roberts
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Ms. Dige:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Yellowstone County Weed Districts grant proposal for the Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within the project area consist of Pompeys Pillar National Monument, Bundy Island and a nearby grazing allotment. All the BLM lands are located on the Yellowstone River, a conduit for the spread of invasive species. Early detection and treatment are key components of our containment and eradication strategy for management of noxious weeds.

In 2001, our office and Yellowstone County entered into an assistance agreement that provides funding to the county for treatment services. The working relationship has been a success for the BLM, our grazing operator(s), recreationalists, neighboring land owners and the county. Through the assistance agreement we are able to aggressively treat a greater number of acres without common boundary issues. Yellowstone County has far exceeded our expectations by providing integrated weed and pest management, prevention and education to land owners, local schools and the community.

This project enables us to broaden treatment acres, achieve collaboration with various interests within the project area, and ultimately control noxious weeds.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call myself at (406) 896-5349 or Larry Padden, Natural Resource Specialist, Billings Field Office, at (406) 896-5237.

Sincerely,

DAVID LEFEVRE

Digitally signed by DAVID LEFEVRE
Date: 2020.11.17 13:25:01 -07'00'

David J. Lefevre
Field Manager
Billings Field Office

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Southern Land Office

STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

PHONE: (406) 247-4400
FAX: (406) 247-4410

1371 RIMTOP DRIVE
BILLINGS, MT 59105

17 November 2020

Yellowstone County Weed District
3319 king Avenue East
Billings, MT 59101

Letter of Support Regarding the Salt Cedar Project in Yellowstone County

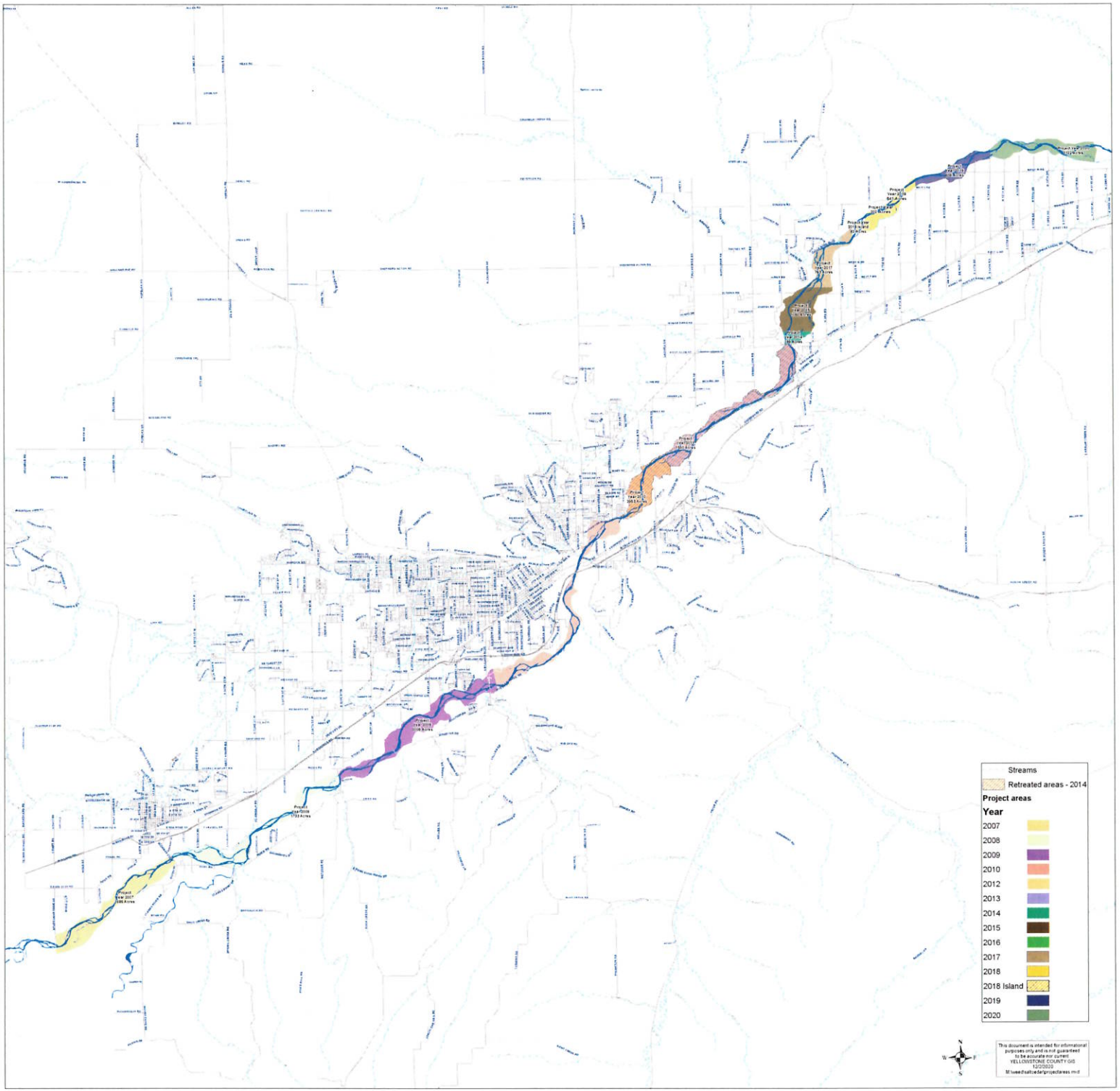
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support the Yellowstone River Salt Cedar Project in Yellowstone County. The Montana DNRC Southern Land Office encourages this project because it helps manage salt cedar on the multiple State-owned islands along the river. Many of these islands contain other noxious weed species as well as salt cedar and this project greatly decreases the spread/growth of these infestations. The management efforts of this project have also made a difference on neighboring properties which makes its importance that much more significant on the area.

Montana DNRC appreciates the time and energy that Yellowstone County Weed District has dedicated towards this project.

Very Respectfully,

Zach Huyser
Land Use Specialist
DNRC- Southern Land Office
406-247-4402
zach.huyser@mt.gov


Streams
Retreated areas - 2014
Project areas
Year
2007
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2018 Island
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2020
This document is intended for informational purposes only and is not guaranteed to be accurate nor current.
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY GIS
12/2/2020
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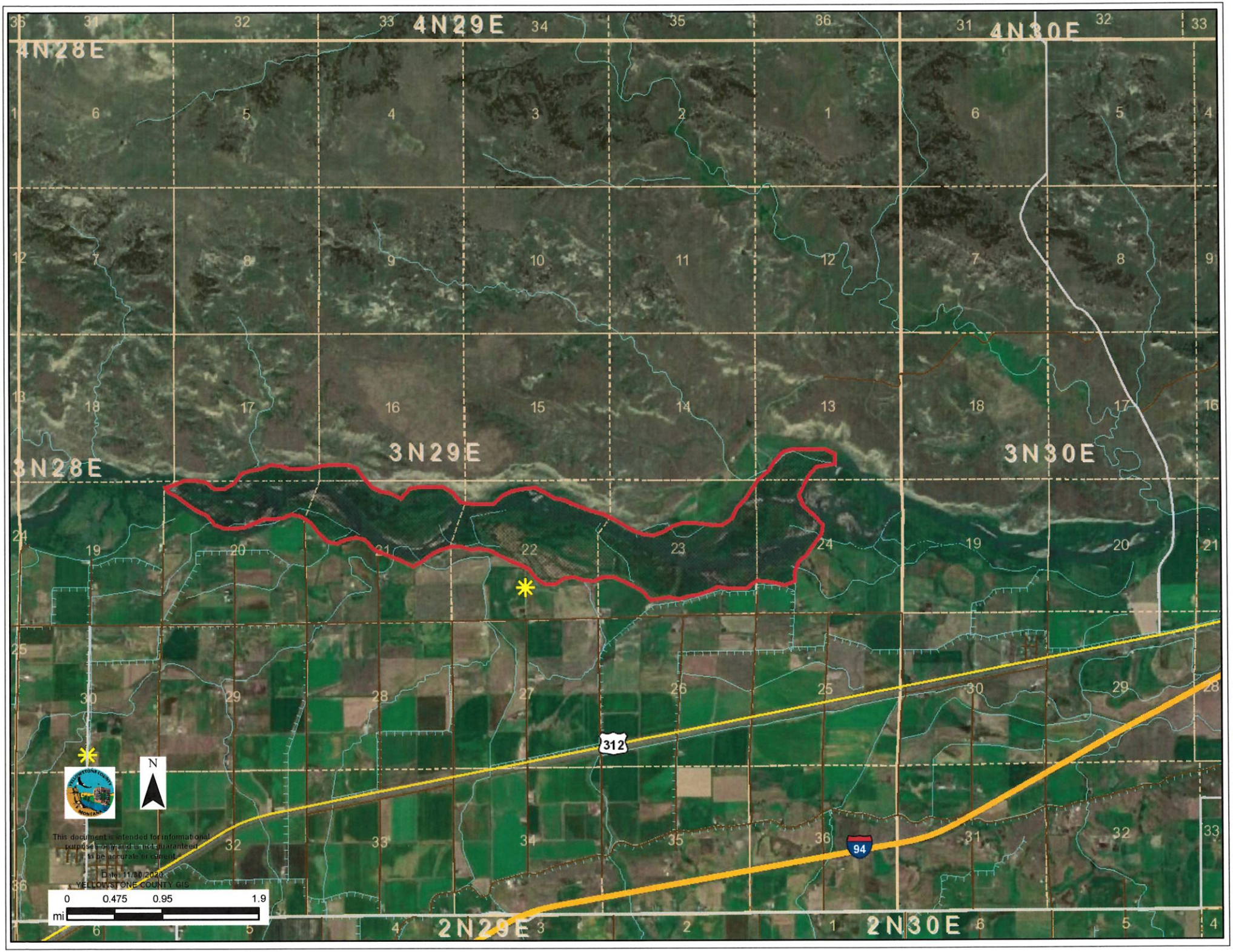
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This document is intended for informational purposes only and is not guaranteed to be accurate or current.
Date: 11/30/2020
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY GIS
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BEFORE PHOTOS

(All photos are from 2020 project)

Look closely in the grass and you will see a young salt cedar seedling – hard to find

AFTER PHOTOS

(All photos from 2020 project)

Treated salt cedar trees in front of cargo trailer

Line of treated salt cedar trees along the shore of the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone County

Old dead skeletons from previous project about 6 or 7 years ago

Salt cedar skeletons from previous project in foreground and new salt cedar trees in background – all of these have been treated.

Dead salt cedar trees from a grant project a few years ago

More dead salt cedar skeletons

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY WEED DISTRICT

SALT CEDAR PROJECT TREE COUNTS
(12/2/2020)

2007 -- ???

2008 – 30,365

2009 – 32,615

2010 – 92,185

2011 – NO PROJECT

2012 – 39,000

2013 – 56,000

2014 – 93,781

2015 – 358,350

2016 – 400,000

2017 – 550,000

2018 – 900,000

2019 – 1.3 million

2020 – 819,287